SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 17

Balancing act across the falls

Tightrope walker set to cross Niagara Gorge in June PAGE 9

NORAH SINGS HER BROKEN HEART OUT

TOUGH BREAKUP A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND JONES' LATEST ALBUM PAGE 16

WINNIPEG metro®

Thursday, May 3, 2012

News worth sharing

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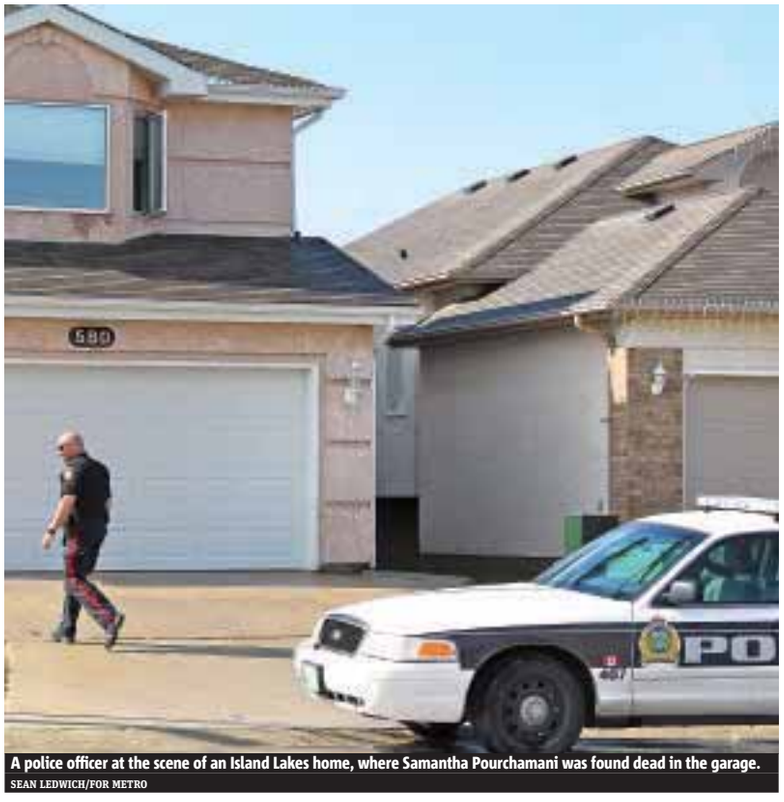

A police officer at the scene of an Island Lakes home, where Samantha Pourchamani was found dead in the garage.
SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

Latest homicide may be another murder-suicide

Domestic homicide?
Police suspect woman may have been killed by her ex-husband

SEAN LEDWICH
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Police say a woman found dead at her Island Lakes home Tuesday night and a subsequent fatal vehicle collision are related and may be a murder-suicide.

At 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday, Winnipeg police were called to the 500-block of Island Shore Boulevard where they found 35-year-old Samantha Pourchamani in her garage with upper body injuries. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Samantha Pourchamani
FACEBOOK

Shortly after, a 49-year-old man died after his Chevrolet Impala collided head-on with a semi on Hwy. 205 just east of Rosenort. Cpl. Miles Hiebert of the RCMP said a witness observed the vehicle "cross over into oncoming traffic, and information from our traffic analyst would confirm that."

Hiebert said the driver of the semi was not hurt.

Const. Jason Michalyshen said Pourchamani and the man, "had been involved in a relationship, and we are identifying it as a domestic-related matter."

According to Facebook, Pourchamani was a mother of two. Michalyshen said she was discovered in the garage by family members. One neighbour told Metro there was yelling at the house before police arrived. A neighbour across the street from the home said he and his son saw a lifeless body in the garage. He said seven police vehicles arrived at the scene and the garage door was closed about 30 minutes later.

"Somebody died in a violent way. It's not good," he said.

The homicide is Winnipeg's 14th this year.

ANOTHER BODY FOUND, PAGE 4

New stadium stalled for Bombers

Construction delays cause grand opening to be moved from July to September PAGE 3

Forgotten in cell for days

Without food or water, a student was forced to drink his own urine in a cell in California after police forgot about him for four days PAGE 11

Facebook pushing to go public

New report says company will go public May 18 at a value of about $100B PAGE 13

Who says malls are for women?

More men are taking interest in crafting a good wardrobe, say fashion insiders PAGE 18

Cauliflower steak & eggs

Thick steaks of cauliflower grilled, seasoned as you like, and topped off with ... what else? Lightly poached eggs and truffle oil PAGE 20

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Stadium won't be open until September: Bombers

Delays. Originally thought to open in July, construction held up for new stadium, so it's back to Canad Inns till then

DAVID BAXTER
winnipeg@metronews.ca

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers held a press conference Wednesday to let fans and season ticket holders know when the first game at Investors Group Field will take place.

The only problem is they are still not even sure when that will be, or even what football club will open the new state-of-the-art stadium.

Standing at a podium at the construction site of the new field, CEO Garth Buchko said the team is aiming to play their first game at the new stadium on Sept. 21 against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, but if construction moves ahead of schedule over the summer than they could play there Sept. 9 for the annual Banjo Bowl.

Should the stadium be ready for Banjo Bowl weekend, then the Manitoba Bisons football team will play the first-ever football game there on Sept. 8.

"This decision was not an easy one for our organization," said Buchko. "At the end of the day we want Blue Bomber fans to have the best fan experience possible and opening any earlier was simply not going to justify that."

Bomber vice president Jim Bell said a full ticket plan is in place for season ticket holders. Fans will pay 2011 season ticket prices for games played at Canad Inns Stadium.

When asked if he believes that the Bombers have not been communicating effectively with their fans, Bell said that they have tried to keep the fans informed.

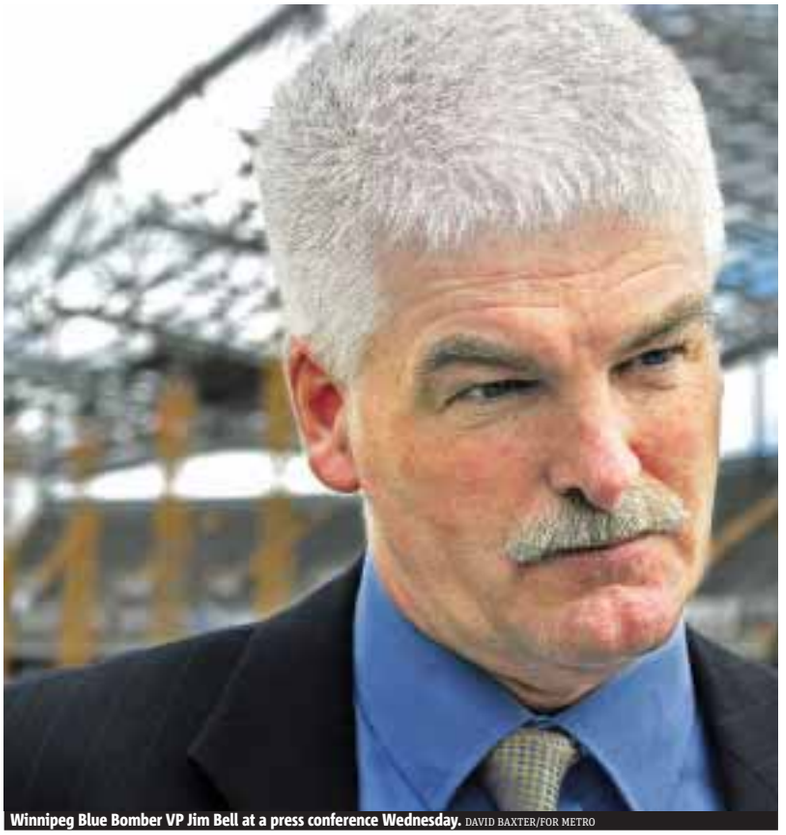
"July 26, based on every bit of information that we had, was the opening of Investors Group Field and we are being as up-to-date and transparent as we can."

However, Brent Lamoureux, 34, disagreed.

"I was planning to get season tickets and now this affects my decision," he said. "I was looking forward to the new place. I am irritated they took so long to say anything."

But Frank Holtkamp, 58, said while he's disappointed, he's OK with the communication from the club.

"I would prefer the first game to be in July or August when it is nice out," he said. "(But) if they honestly didn't know ... then I don't blame them for not saying anything."



Winnipeg Blue Bomber VP Jim Bell at a press conference Wednesday. DAVID BAXTER/FOR METRO

Slurpees touch down at Winnipeg airport

Barry Rempel, president and CEO of the Winnipeg Airports Authority, announced Wednesday that 7-Eleven, Petro-Canada and Harvey's are coming to the James A. Richardson International Airport. BERNICE PONTANILA/METRO

Winnipeg's airport is ensuring the city retains one of its most cherished titles — Slurpee capital of the world.

Barry Rempel, president and CEO of the Winnipeg Airports Authority, said 7-Eleven, along with Petro-Canada and Harvey's, are coming to the James A. Richardson International Airport.

The announcement came during the WAA's annual general meeting at the Fairmont Hotel on Wednesday to cheers from those in attendance.

"I take particular pride in knowing that I'll be able to get a Coke Slurpee before getting on an airplane," said Brian Bowman, chair of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, with a big smile.

"It's a great reflection of what Winnipeg is about, that you can pick up a cheese nip and a Slurpee on your way out (of the city)."

Bowman said the arrival of these three new tenants is a testament to the growth that is happening in Winnipeg.

Petro-Canada and 7-Eleven will share the same space in the "U" part of Wellington Avenue where the road splits into two, said Rempel, while the Harvey's will be located before security right beside the MLCC.

Rempel said the Petro-Canada station will include a car wash, making it easier for rental companies and passengers to fill up and clean their vehicles.

For those coming in on late flights, Rempel said "you can stop by and grab what you need," like milk.

Watch for more coverage in tomorrow's edition of Metro Winnipeg.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

15-storey fall

Death deemed accidental

Police say a fatal 15-storey fall from an apartment suite Tuesday night appears accidental.

Just before 10 p.m. emergency crews were called to the 300 block of Assiniboine Avenue. A man in his twenties was taken to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Const. Jason Michalyshen said police are still investigating the incident, though "the matter appears to be accidental."

"From what I understand there was a window that was involved," Michalyshen said.

"What brought this individual to that window and the circumstances behind it, I can't get into those details."

SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

Gypsy moths

City, province to spray for pesky bug

The City and the Province are holding a public information session about plans to control a population of gypsy moths in and around St. Vital Park.

Gypsy moths were accidentally introduced to the United States in 1869 and spread. The caterpillars feed on the leaves of more than 450 tree species, but prefer oak trees. Similar to forest tent caterpillars, high populations of gypsy moth caterpillars can completely strip leaves from trees, killing them or making them more susceptible to other pests.

The province, in collaboration with the city, is planning to apply the biological control product Foray 48B in selected areas of St. Vital. The active ingredient a bacterium that occurs naturally in soils worldwide. It has been used to control forest caterpillar pests since the mid-1970s.

The public information session will include presentations on the proposed management plan for gypsy moths in Winnipeg. The session will be held at 7 p.m., May 7 at the Norberry-Glenlee Community Centre. METRO

1 NEWS

On the web

Model asks moms to keep it down

Christy Turlington is asking mothers to step back from Mother's Day this year. No cards, no cake, no flowers, no "noise." Find out why at metronews.ca

Band pops its cork

Backstage with the rock band Train before a performance may not be quite what you expect from a Grammy-winning, multi-platinum group. Instead of groupies, you'll find wine glasses and bottles of their latest hit, Train-made wine. Get the full story at metronews.ca

Mobile news

We've long been hearing that Canadians are huge fans of watching online video, more so than web surfers in any other country. According to a recent survey, almost a quarter of Canadians say they now spend more time watching online video than traditional TV. Scan the code for the story.

Mystery. Dog survives suspected poisoning

The dog left gravely ill after a suspected St. James strychnine poisoning last month left another dog dead has survived the ordeal.

"Louie is now home resting," confirmed the pet owner's sister, Lauri-Jane Lewis in an email to Metro this week.

Lewis's sister woke up on April 16 to find her two mixed-breed dogs — Louie and Frankie — without signs of life in a special dog run built in the backyard of her Collegiate Street home. Frankie was dead and Louie was taken to a veterinarian hospital where a vet said he suspected strychnine poisoning, though results from a test completed later came back inconclusive.

Louie. CONTRIBUTED

Police were contacted, but Lewis says what happened to the two dogs is "still a mystery." SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Update. Police probe discovery of women's body in rooming house

Winnipeg police are investigating what they're calling a sudden death after the body of a 39-year-old woman was found in a West End rooming house Tuesday afternoon.

As reported in yesterday's Metro, police said the woman's body was discovered in a two-storey house at 854 Home St. around 12:30 p.m., and stopped short of calling the incident a homicide.

Police said Wednesday morning the death is still being treated as suspicious and the woman's next of kin are still being notified. The cause of death will be determined after an autopsy, which was scheduled.

Neighbours said fights and noise are a common occurrence at the home.

Many told Metro they heard fighting and yelling about knives late Monday night and into Tuesday morning.

METRO

Firefighters battle a blaze that razed several buildings on Albert Street last month. Julius Wise's silver Toyota was parked out front. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Centennial pin a hot commodity among Transcona residents

Popular demand. Pins will be available through the Transcona Legion for fundraising

BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

Who knew a small pin could cause such a stir in Transcona?

"Due to popular demand, the Centennial Committee will be producing a centennial pin in honour of Transcona's 100th," said Wendy Galagan, executive director of Transcona BIZ.

"They will be available in approximately two weeks."

A batch of the original pins was made for the dignitaries and Transcona Centennial Committee members who attended and organized, respectively, the 100th anniversary celebration that took place on April 12.

However, after being distributed and featured on the cover of Metro Winnipeg, many people came forward wanting to purchase one.

Transcona resident Jennifer Ozarko said she would like to buy, depending on the price, six to 10 pins for her family.

"Transcona is a great community," said Ozarko, whose husband was raised in the area. "Even though they are no longer a town, people here sort of live like it is."

Ozarko contacted Metro Winnipeg to find out if the pins were for sale and was then steered towards Transcona BIZ.

Of the Centennial, Ozarko said, "100 years of anything is amazing."

"It's great to hear the stories of the people that were here in the beginning/creation of Transcona," she added.

The Transcona 100th anniversary pin is a hot item. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

The pins will be available through the Transcona Legion, which is using the pin sale as a fundraiser. The Legion is located at 117 Regent Ave. East and is open from 2 p.m. on. For more information, call 222-9951.

Follow Bernice Pontanilla on Twitter @MetroBee

Government resources. Provincial NDP broke the rules in lead-up to election, commissioner says

Manitoba's elections commissioner says the governing New Democrats broke the rules in the leadup to last fall's election when they used government staff to conduct a media tour of a new birthing centre.

"The other parties running candidates in the election did not have access to government staffers to arrange their media events, nor did they have the ability to use the birth centre to stage a media event," Bill Bowles wrote in a decision dated April 30 and made public Wednesday.

"Those uses of government resources are, in my view, what section 56 (of the Elections Finances Act) was intended to prevent."

The law prohibits government advertising, except in cases of emergencies, during the 90-day period prior to election day, which was held Oct. 4, 2011, under the province's fixed election-date law.

On Aug. 30, two media outlets were offered a tour of a community birth centre in south Winnipeg. The centre, which gives women an alternative to hospitals as a place to have their babies, had been announced more than a year earlier and was nearing completion.

Violation

> **"Those uses of government resources are, in my view, what section 56 (of the Elections Finances Act) was intended to prevent."**
>
> Bill Bowles, Manitoba's elections commissioner

On the tour, and appearing in newspaper photographs the following day, were Health Minister Theresa Oswald and Education Minister Nancy Allan. The Opposition Progressive Conservatives filed a complaint with the elections commissioner, which accused the NDP of using government resources for what amounted to a campaign-style event.

Bowles ruled the NDP's violation was inadvertent, but clearly used government resources. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fire fallout. Man whose car was parked in front of burned restaurant still waiting for vehicle

Julius Wise still hasn't gotten his car back.

The Winnipeg man went to a downtown high-rise to attend a financial meeting on April 19 and made a decision that he would regret about a half an hour later.

He parked his 2005 Toyota Avalon in front of Ken Hong Restaurant on Albert Street — a restaurant that no longer exists following a huge downtown fire that destroyed three storefronts, including War On Music.

It took firefighters several hours to put out the blaze after they were called to the scene at 9:27 a.m. Plumes of thick smoke filled downtown and brought out thousands of onlookers from workplaces and beyond.

"Being at the wrong place at the wrong time, this happens to people all of the time," said Wise about his experience that Thursday.

The day of the fire, Wise could see his vehicle from an alleyway behind the 201 Portage Ave. building and firefighters surrounding it as they held hoses aimed at the flames.

"It was my unlucky day, I guess," Wise said at the time.

A firefighter on the scene told Wise that it would be several hours before he could get his car back, which turned out to be the case.

Wise said he went back later in the afternoon and a fire chief gave permission for him to get his vehicle.

"There was debris and ashes on the car and it smelled like smoke," he said, adding that he had to drive down the alleyway to get out of the area.

Julius Wise
BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Wise said his vehicle was towed to MPI on April 23, and will be there for another week or two for them to take a look at it. His main concern is the engine, since there was so much water used that day and so much smoke.

He's also getting his health checked out: He had his chest X-rayed and is going for breathing tests in the near future.

"Breathing in those toxic fumes is not something one should be doing," he said.

On April 20, Winnipeg police said as a result of the investigation carried out by the Arson Task Force and the Office of the Fire Commissioner, investigators determined the fire started in the retail music store, the cause being an "accidental-electrical failure receptacle."

According to the City of Winnipeg, the damage to the properties at 38, 42 and 44 Albert St., as well as water damage to the basement of the Royal Albert Arms Hotel, is pegged at $630,000.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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Mom denies taking 5-year-old to tanning bed

Patricia Krentcil, 44, stands with her lawyer, John Caruso.
JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Jersey. Salon owner said the child visited facility with her mother, but didn't go into tanning bed

A woman whose own skin is deeply bronze-coloured from regular visits to a tanning salon has been accused of taking her five-year-old daughter into a tanning booth in violation of state law, burning the girl's skin.

Through her attorney, Patricia Krentcil, 44, of Nutley, entered a plea of not guilty Wednesday in Superior Court to a charge of child endangerment. New Jersey law bars anyone under 14 from using a tanning salon.

Prior to the hearing, Krentcil called the accusation a lie.

"It's all made up," she said.

She said her daughter, who was five at the time of the alleged incident in mid-April and has since turned six, got sunburned by being outside on an unseasonably warm day. She said her daughter, however, had mentioned to school officials when she complained of itching that she had been to a tanning salon with her mother.

Krentcil had told various TV stations her daughter was in the room at the salon but not in the stand-up tanning booth.

Police in Nutley told The Nutley Sun newspaper they were called to the child's school April 24 because the kindergartner was in pain from a "pretty severe sunburn." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bond

$2,500

Krentcil remained free on a $2,500 cash bond. She is scheduled to make her next court appearance on June 4.

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Britain. Spy agencies could have been involved in spy's death, coroner says

Even after a coroner's verdict, it remains a mystery: A naked spy found dead in a locked bag, lurid details of a kinky sex life and allegations that someone in Britain's spy agencies may have been involved in his death.

A British coroner ruled Wednesday that another person was likely involved in Gareth Williams' death — a finding that puts more pressure on police to uncover the cyberwarfare expert's killer and continue to investigate possibilities that include whether he could have died in a sex game gone awry or in a more sinister scenario that involved his counterterrorism work.

In Britain, coroners are asked to investigate unexplained deaths, and their findings can often carry weight as police investigations proceed.

Although Coroner Fiona Wilcox said it was unlikely that the death of Williams, 31, will ever be "satisfactorily explained," she said the spy was likely killed either by suffocation or poisoning in a "criminally meditated act." She also said it was possible that someone from one of Britain's spy agencies was involved.

British intelligence official Gareth Williams
METROPOLITAN POLICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Media

Elders put off by elder-abuse commercial, study says

A proposed tough-on-crime TV spot about elder abuse proved a little too creepy for seniors, new documents show.

Focus groups found the 30-second commercial, which featured an elderly woman inspecting a police line-up of suspected fraudsters, to be "off-putting/frightening."

Market-research firm Ipsos Reid urged the Department of Human Resources to use another, less unsettling ad.

"In borrowing of the symbols of law and order, the ad led participants down the wrong path," the company wrote in its February report.

"The criminalization might actually deter seniors from reporting abuse out of fear of losing their loved ones or needed caregivers. Police presence might be a deterrent for seniors from different cultural backgrounds."

Ipsos Reid ran 11 focus groups in Vancouver, Montreal, Halifax and London, Ont., last November.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The easy rider

Harley-Davidson floats from Japan

Call it the Harley of the high seas.

A rust-encrusted Harley-Davidson motorcycle, made buoyant by the container in which it was stored, has washed up on an island off B.C. after it was lost in last year's tsunami in Japan.

"This is unmistakably mine," the bike's owner, Ikuo Yokoyama, told a Japanese TV station after he was located through the licence plate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Videotaped fracas

Cabbie gets bail in hit-run case

A judge has granted bail to a Montreal cabbie accused of running over a fare — as shown in a viral video making the rounds on the Internet.

But Guercy Edmond, 47, is forbidden from working in certain areas and from having contact with three people involved.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politics

Tories, NDP tied, poll suggests

A new poll suggests the Conservatives and NDP are in a statistical tie for voter support.

The Canadian Press-Harris Decima survey taken last week indicates the NDP has 33 per cent support while the Tories have 30 per cent.

The new poll suggests Liberal support is still hovering around the 18 per cent mark.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boasting

Watch us in 2015, says NDP chief

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair says his party is ready to make the leap to government in 2015.

Mulcair is marking the first anniversary of his party's historic election breakthrough, which propelled it to official Opposition status.

He's says the Conservative government is on the defensive and the NDP can capitalize on that.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Words that left a killer in tears

Loving message from sis. "I honestly do not know what I'd do without my brother by my side," she says of death row Canadian

Convicted murderer Ronald Smith becomes emotional at his Montana hearing Wednesday. MICHAEL GALLACHER/THE MISSOULIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The only Canadian on death row in the United States broke down and cried at his clemency hearing in Montana on Wednesday.

Ronald Smith, who shot and killed two young men in 1982, lost control when his sister Rita Duncan read a letter he'd written to their mother after her death last year. Smith covered his eyes, brushed away tears and was patted on the shoulder by his lawyer.

Duncan said although she shut Smith out of her life for years, she is proud to be his sister.

"I honestly do not know what I would do without my brother by my side," said Duncan, her voice quavering.

"I can't bear the thought of losing another brother and I'm sorry if this sounds selfish."

She asked people in the packed courtroom to put themselves in her place.

Originally from Red Deer, Alta., Smith, 54, has been on death row since shooting Thomas Running Rabbit and Harvey Mad Man Jr. near East Glacier, Mont., 30 years ago.

Smith is asking the Board of Pardons and Parole to recommend his death sentence be commuted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coming home

PM, Mulcair toss barbs over Black

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair sparred Wednesday over … Conrad Black.

Mulcair accused the Tory government of giving special treatment to Black by agreeing to let him return to Canada after he is released from a U.S. prison this week.

But Harper said the government would be just as happy if the disgraced media baron had been denied entry to Canada.

Harper said the decision to admit Black was taken by public servants, not politicians.

"There has been no involvement of anyone on the political side of government in this," Harper said in the Commons.

Black has been granted a one-year temporary residence permit.

He spent several years in a Florida prison after fraud and obstruction of justice convictions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Accused of cover up

Cardinal Brady won't resign

The leader of Ireland's Catholics said Wednesday he won't resign after a BBC documentary accused him of helping to cover up 1970s child abuse committed by a priest.

Cardinal Sean Brady said the documentary exaggerated his role in the 1975 interviews of two teenage boys abused by a priest. Brady said he gave his report, as instructed, to his bishop, who had responsibility.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French election

Sarkozy accuses Hollande of 'lying'

French President Nicolas Sarkozy repeatedly accused his leftist challenger Francois Hollande of lying as they faced off in a much anticipated debate Wednesday ahead of the presidential election.

The heated comments reflected the intensity of the contest, especially for Sarkozy, who is lagging in the polls ahead of Sunday's vote. The debate is seen as the sharp-tongued Sarkozy's last chance to lure voters behind his bid for a second term.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French President Nicolas Sarkozy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman signs her name as a show of support for blind Chinese legal activist Chen Guangcheng during an event, in Hong Kong on Wednesday. KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Activist wants to leave China

Chen Guangcheng. Blind Chinese legal activist wants to leave China, fears for his family, despite American brokered agreement

The blind Chinese activist at the centre of a six-day diplomatic tussle between the U.S. and China said he fears for his family's lives and wants to leave China, hours after American officials announced an agreement with Beijing that was to guarantee his safety.

Chen Guangcheng escaped from illegal house arrest and other mistreatment in his rural town, placing himself under the protection of U.S. diplomats last week.

On Wednesday, after six days holed up inside the American embassy, he emerged and was taken to a nearby hospital.

U.S. officials said they had extracted from the Chinese government a promise that Chen would reunite with his family and be allowed to start a new life in a university town.

Chen's flight into the protection of U.S. diplomats in Beijing last week had created a delicate diplomatic crisis for Washington and Beijing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The path of the dissident

Never come back

Chinese dissidents know their influence can fade after they leave the country, and they face the possibility of never coming home.

Wei Jingsheng: The democracy activist was a soldier and electrician whose faith in China's communist order was shaken by Mao Zedong's ruinous policies.

Wei spent a total of 17 years in prison for urging reforms.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brutal hazing. Drum major pummelled to death, 13 charged

Thirteen people were charged Wednesday in one of the biggest college hazing cases ever prosecuted in the U.S.

They were accused in the death of a Florida A&M University drum major who authorities say was mercilessly pummeled by fellow members of the marching band.

The charges came more than five months after Robert Champion, 26, died aboard a chartered bus parked outside an Orlando hotel following a performance against a rival school.

Quotable

"The death ... is nothing short of an American tragedy."

State Attorney Lawson Lamar

The most sensational cases of hazing have typically involved fraternities, sororities or athletic teams, but tragedy in November exposed a brutal tradition among marching bands at colleges. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newt Gingrich. Officially ends his comeback campaign for president

Newt Gingrich officially ended his campaign on Wednesday, and President Barack Obama's re-election campaign released a web video of clips from the Republican primaries in which the former House speaker sharply criticized Mitt Romney — Obama's likely opponent in November.

Facing a tight race, Obama's campaign put forward Gingrich's anti-Romney messages on issues from immigration to the presumptive nominee's tenure as a venture capitalist.

Former Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich. AP

Gingrich led Republicans out of 40 years of minority status in the lower house but later resigned under an ethics cloud. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tightrope walk across Niagara Falls set for June

Nik Wallenda points to Niagara Falls after a news conference on Wednesday. Wallenda will try to cross the Niagara Gorge on a tightrope on June 15.

DAVID DUPREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daredevil. Nik Wallenda spent months dealing with Canadian, U.S. officials for permission

Daredevil Nik Wallenda will try to cross the Niagara Gorge — including part of the famous falls — on a tightrope June 15.

The seventh-generation member of the Flying Wallendas spent months getting the necessary permissions from Canada and the United States for the cross-border stunt.

Organizers told a news conference in Niagara Falls, Ont., on Wednesday that the contracts have been signed and the date set.

Wallenda's stunt will merge two pop culture traditions — his own family's death-defying feats on the high wire and the daredevil acts at Niagara Falls that date back more than 100 years.

It took an act of the New York legislature and persistent lobbying of Canadian parks officials to make Wallenda's planned wire stunt a possibility.

The Niagara Parks Commission board gave its thumbs-up to Wallenda in February, reversing an earlier decision against the stunt.

Plan and profit

Tony Baldinelli, a spokesman for the Niagara Parks Commission, said that Wallenda will cross over a portion of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls as he walks from one side of the gorge to the other.

- **Economic impact.** A study has suggested that the television coverage of the event could help generate a $120-million shot in the arm to the Niagara economy.

"Not only is it a dream but we had to change two laws in two countries that were over 100 years old," Wallenda said.

"This is clearly a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

Niagara Parks chairwoman Janice Thomson had said the approval was a "unique one-time situation" and that Wallenda was able to prove he had proper controls and safety measures in place.

She also said the commission would only consider requests for such events from skilled professionals once every 20 years.

Wallenda's walk across the falls on a five-centimetre-diameter steel cable is expected to be televised live. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A Balinese official looks at a chicken after administering an injection to cull it as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of bird flu, at a market in Denpasar, Bali, April 26. FIRDIA LISNAWATI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘Risky’ article on bird flu published

Study. A new article outlines the danger of mutating H5N1 genes

A bird flu study that was blocked from publication for months after biosecurity experts questioned if it was unsafe to put it in the public domain has finally been published.

The work, conducted by a team led by influenza virologist Yoshihiro Kawaoka of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Tokyo, suggests that as few as three changes to the main gene on the surface of some H5N1 flu viruses might allow the virus to transmit efficiently among mammals — perhaps even humans.

Kawaoka and his team managed to create a hybrid virus that would transmit through the air, passing from infected to healthy ferrets, which were used in the experiment as a stand in for people. The newly transmissible virus needed four mutations in the surface gene, the hemagglutinin, which gives a flu virus the H portion of it name.

One of the mutations is already seen in viruses in the Middle East, Africa and parts of Asia and Europe, potentially leaving the need for only three more, if the virus were to take this route to gain the capacity to pass from human to human.

“Our study shows that relatively few amino acid mutations are sufficient for a virus with an avian H5 hemagglutinin to acquire the ability to transmit in mammals,” Kawaoka said in a press release.

Science currently has no way to gauge how likely or unlikely it is that this would happen. And experts warn there are likely other paths the virus could take to adapt to spread among mammals.

In the world of influenza research, Kawaoka is rock star, known for elegant studies that grace the pages of the top scientific journals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feuding parties

Kawaoka’s paper is one of two that have been at the centre of a protracted fight pitting biosecurity experts against influenza scientists.

- The U.S. National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity argued publishing the paper could threaten national security and public health.
- The flu research establishment countered that sharing the data is critical to both shore up a new and delicate international flu virus sharing agreement and to monitor H5N1 viruses in the wild for dangerous changes.
- The second study, by Dutch virologist Ron Fouchier, was only cleared for publication late last week.

SpaceX

More space station delays

The first commercial cargo run to the International Space Station has been delayed again for more software testing.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp., better known as SpaceX, was aiming for a Monday liftoff of its Falcon rocket and Dragon capsule. But on Wednesday, the California-based company announced its latest postponement and said a new launch date had not been set.

The test flight already is three months late.

The earliest possible launch date would be next Thursday. Otherwise, SpaceX will need to wait until the Russians send a new crew to the space station on May 15. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reader calls for real images

Julia Bluhm, 14, of Waterville, Maine, led a protest outside Hearst Corp. headquarters May 2. Bluhm delivered a petition of about 25,000 names urging Seventeen magazine to publish one spread a month of model photos that have not been altered. LEANNE ITALIE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police forget student in cell for four days

Negligence. Daniel Chong was left without food and drink without being charged

A college student picked up in a federal drug sweep in California was never arrested, never charged and should have been released. Instead, authorities say, he was forgotten in a holding cell for four days.

Without food, water or access to a toilet, Daniel Chong had to drink his own urine to survive and began hallucinating after three days because of a lack of nourishment, his lawyer said.

"He nearly died," Eugene Iredale said. "If he had been there another 12 to 24 hours, he probably would have died."

The top Drug Enforcement Administration agent in San Diego apologized Wednesday for Chong's treatment and promised an investigation into how his agents could have forgotten about him.

Iredale said he intends to seek damages from the DEA, and may file a lawsuit against the government.

The incident stands out as one of the worst cases of its kind, said Thomas Beauclair, deputy director of the National Corrections Institute.

"That is pretty much unheard of," he said, noting that, in his 40-year career, he has heard of instances where people were forgotten overnight, but not for days.

Iredale said Chong, an engineering student at the University of California, San Diego, went to his friend's house on April 20 to get high. Every April 20, pot smokers light up in a counterculture ritual held around the country at 4:20 p.m.

Chong fell asleep and, around 9 a.m. the next day, Iredale said, agents swept through the house in a raid that netted 18,000 ecstasy pills, other drugs and weapons. Nine people, including Chong, were taken into custody.

Chong was questioned for four hours and then told that he would be released, Iredale said. Chong was handcuffed and placed back in the same cell, a windowless room. The DEA said there are five cells at the facility.

The only view out was through a tiny peephole in the door. He could hear the muffled voices of agents and the sound of the door of the next cell being opened and closed, Iredale said. As the hours dragged into days, he kicked and screamed as loud as he could, Iredale said.

At one point, he ripped a piece of his clothing off and shoved it under the door, hoping someone would spot it and free him, his attorney said. Chong also ripped away foam from the wall.

Chong drank his own urine to survive. He bit into his eyeglasses to break them and then tried to use a shard to scratch "Sorry Mom" into his arm. He stopped after the "S," the attorney said. He said he believes Chong was thinking of killing himself.

Then the lights went out. He sat in darkness until the door finally opened April 25, Iredale said.

Chong told agents that he ingested a white powder they later identified as methamphetamine. It was not clear how the powder got into the cell. Chong told them it was not his, the lawyer said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survival

"I had to recycle my own urine. I had to do what I had to do to survive."

Daniel Chong, student

Terrorism

Men charged in U.S. bomb plot

Five men charged with plotting to bomb a U.S. bridge placed what they thought were real explosives at the site and repeatedly tried to detonate them using text messages from cellphones, according to an FBI affidavit filed in court.

Federal authorities on Tuesday described the men as anarchists who are angry with corporate America and the government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Appeal

'Torture' author protected

An appeals court said Wednesday a former senior Department of Justice lawyer who wrote the so-called "torture memos" authorizing harsh treatment of suspected terrorists is protected from lawsuits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Macedonian terror arrests

Police officers escort a man into court to appear on terrorism charges in connection with the killing of five men last month, in Skopje, Macedonia, Wednesday. Macedonian authorities arrested some 20 radical Islamists, suspected in the murder of five Macedonian fishermen which fuelled ethnic tensions in this tiny Balkan country.

BORIS GRDANOSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

E-readers

Target phasing out Amazon Kindle

Target Corp. is phasing out Amazon.com Inc.'s e-reader Kindle at its more than 1,700 stores and its website.

Target spokeswoman Molly Snyder said Wednesday that the decision to stop selling Kindles this spring came after an "ongoing review" of Target's merchandise that evaluates quality and prices of the chain's offerings.

The move coincides with the discounter's plan to create mini shops of Apple Inc. products in 25 of its stores this year.

Despite competition from cheaper tablet computers such as Amazon's Kindle Fire, Apple's iPad remains the most popular tablet. Apple has sold more than 55 million iPads since the tablet's debut in 2010.

Target, which is based in Minneapolis, started selling Kindles two years ago. Target announced in late November that Amazon's Kindle was the bestselling tablet in its stores on the day after Thanksgiving, typically the busiest day of the year.

Target will also stop selling Kindle accessories like covers and chargers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Watchdog

Competition Bureau won't review MLSE takeover

Canada's competition watchdog will not challenge Bell Canada and Rogers Communications Inc. on their $1.07-billion takeover of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, despite some concerns about concentration in the industry.

The Competition Bureau says that it has issued a "no action" letter to the telecom giants indicating that it doesn't plan to have the deal reviewed under the Competition Act.

However, it added that it has heard several serious concerns about the effect of increasing concentration and vertical integration on the broadcasting industry.

It says the Commissioner of Competition is actively reviewing those concerns and won't hesitate to take action if she determines the Competition Act has been violated.

The legislation provides the bureau with a one-year period following the deal's closure to bring a challenge to the Competition Tribunal.

The media giants teamed for a majority stake in the country's biggest sports franchise company

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black's future in business uncertain

Prison release. Black, critics express doubt about the media baron's return to the media business

When former media baron Conrad Black is released from prison this week, he returns to a media landscape far different from the one he walked away from a decade ago.

Whether he will want to jump back into the world he once dominated is unknown, but those who have followed his rise and fall from grace say Black could still wield influence, though likely not at a public company.

Black himself has indicated he's done with the type of scrutiny that comes with running a publicly traded company following the demise of Hollinger International Inc.

"The regulators, the minority shareholders, all that crap. Oh, I can't stand it," he told Vanity Fair in an interview before returning to jail last August to serve the remaining nine months of his prison term.

Karl Moore, a professor at McGill University's Desautels Faculty of Management, said Black is unlikely to be involved in a publicly traded company.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hollinger Inc.

"The regulators, the minority shareholders, all that crap. Oh, I can't stand it."

Baron Conrad Black
On running Hollinger International Inc.

Good Timing

When Hollinger sold the bulk of its Canadian newspapers in 2000, the industry had yet to see its business radically transformed by the Internet. Canwest Global, the broadcasting giant that bought the bulk of Black's Canadian holdings, has been dismantled and sold off in pieces with the newspapers now held by Postmedia Network.

Canadian wallets about to hold even more plastic

Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty, right, and Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney show off the new $20 bank bill during a ceremony in Ottawa, Wednesday. A mural of the new plastic twenty dollar bill is on the side of the Bank of Canada building behind them. The Bank of Canada unveiled the new $20 polymer bank note Wednesday that will replace the current paper-cotton bills. Gone from the back of the bill are the depictions of Canadian artist Bill Reid's sculptures Raven and the First Men and The Spirit of Haida Gwaii. In their place are the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and clusters of red poppies. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.37¢ (-0.07¢)

Natural gas: $2.253 US (-11.8¢)
Dow Jones: 13,268.57 (-10.75)

TSX 12,230.12 (-102.66)

OIL $105.22 US (-0.94¢)

GOLD $1,654 US (-$8.40)

RIM. Keyboards will remain in new BlackBerry line

Chief executive Thorsten Heins says RIM will continue to offer devices with its popular physical keypad.

Heins told media at the BlackBerry World conference in Orlando on Wednesday that, despite rumours to the contrary, its new line of BlackBerrys due for release later this year will include both touchscreens and keypads. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guess what's more common in men?

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Facebook could go public May 18, new report says

Tech. Company's founder campaigning to increase the social network's initial public offering, estimated to be $100 billion

Facebook will go public on May 18, a published report says, in one of the most highly anticipated tech initial public offerings since Google went public in August 2004.

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that the social-networking company is set to start its roadshow on Monday, according to people familiar with the matter. The roadshow, a series of meetings with prospective institutional investors, is designed to stir interest in the company's stock.

Mark Zuckerberg, the founder and chief executive of Facebook, will attend some of the meetings, The Journal reported.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg
RICK ROWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Menlo Park, Calif.-based company is seeking to raise about $5 billion in the offering, giving the entire company a value of about $100 billion.

Officials for Facebook declined to comment.

Facebook last month announced it is buying Instagram, the company behind a popular mobile photo-sharing application with the same name, for $1 billion, its largest acquisition ever.

During the first quarter, Facebook's net income fell 12 per cent, weighed down by higher expenses even as its revenue soared. Net income fell to $205 million in the three months that ended March 31, from $233 million a year earlier, while net income attributable to common shareholders fell to $137 million from $153 million. That amounts to earnings of nine cents per share in the latest quarter, down from 11 cents a year earlier. Revenue rose 45 per cent to $1.06 billion.

The company had 901 million monthly active users as of March 31, up from 845 million as of the end of 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barrick Gold chairman offers insight

Barrick Gold chairman Peter Munk, right, chats with company president and CEO Aaron Regent during their annual general meeting in Toronto on Wednesday. Munk offered a bullish outlook for gold, but acknowledged that shares in the miner have lagged the company's performance. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fibre optic

Bell goes on hiring spree in Quebec

Bell is hiring 300 new technicians and other workers in the Quebec City region this year.

The company says the move is part of a $240-million plan to extend its fibre optic services to homes and businesses in the area.

Bell is competing with cable companies with its latest offerings. The move will expand Bell's broadband Fibe TV, Internet and phone services.

Bell's corporate parent, BCE, is expected to release its first-quarter financial results on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RT is here. Thirteen routes now use the state-of-the-art Southwest Transitway to bypass traffic for fast, reliable service that's comfortable and easy to use. Get out of the gridlock and get on board.
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THE COMPREHENSIVE CANADIAN LIST

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

I've been enamoured lately with various best-selling books of factoids such as Schott's Miscellany, the Farmers Almanac and John's Bathroom Reader (no relation), and how, despite their diversity of information, they all come back to one key factoid: I want a best-selling book, too.

So I've begun collecting information about Canada — both interesting and oddball — that I might present the Canadian All-manac, where one can learn everything from the name of Canada's first secretary general to Nellie McClung's best-selling album. For the small sample of text I provide below, a small donation is appreciated and mandatory.

What people from various Canadian places are called:
- Cornwall: Cornwallas
- Leduc: Leducs of Earl
- Kenora: Kenoraephrons
- Medicine Hat: Pillboxers
- Dawson Creek: Vanderbeeks
- Grand Prairie: Newfoundlanders
- Toronto: Empty inside

The most popular Canadian pickup lines:
"Condoms if necessary, but not necessarily condoms."
"General Wolfe would have pulled through if he'd seen you."
"It's been 172 years. Time for another Act of Union?"
"Hey baby, you want to see my Head of State?"

Reasons Canadian prescription drugs are restricted in the U.S.:
- Canadian drugs include the evil gateway drug medicinal marijuana.
- There is no way to tell what's actually in the bottle because the labels are written in Canadian.
- Buying cheaper drugs from another country is just another sad example of "trying to be popular around the world because that would make sense and help our citizens."
- Canadian drugs could promote a polite, moderate lifestyle.

Most popular Canadian pastimes (non-hockey):
- Hockey.
- Nationality-hyphenating.
- Making love to a canoe.
- Mumbling O Canada.
- Historical re-enactments of the drafting of the Constitution Act of 1867. (I call George-Etienne Cartier!)
- Hating Canadian provinces you've never been to.
- Heritage moment drinking game! Drink if you hear, "I need these baskets back!" "Ahhh, Mr. Clarence, why doont you just rrread it then?" and "Hey, buddy, he means the friggin' village."

Ways Canadian soldiers differ from American soldiers:
- Canadian snipers say "sorry" after every shot.
- Humanitarian packages consist of three beer, some maple syrup, and Rock 'em Sock 'em 18.
- Afghan poppy fields are razed, but replaced with medicinal marijuana.
- Uniforms by Roots.

Failed Canadian tourism slogans:
Manitoba: I'd walk a mile for a neighbour!
Ontario: Ride the downward spiral!
New Brunswick: For the love of God, stop!
Newfoundlanders: Your favourite walks-into-a-bar jokes come to life!
Nunavut: Friends, frostbite and fun!
Saskatchewan: Flat is phat!

Popular Canadian adult films:
- Winnipeggers
- Oh, Canada!
- Debbie does Drapeau
- They call him Avro Arrow
- Henderson Scores #8
- Goose!
- Ig-naughty-iff
- The Devil and Mrs. Lyon Mackenzie King
- Backdoor Legislation: A National Film Board joint
- Dief-Throat

All eyes on the lens

MAURIZIO MALAGOLI/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO AGENCY

Staring contest?

Owls spy with their little eyes

MODENA, ITALY. Amateur photographer and computer professional Maurizio Malagoli captured these little owls looking identically wide-eyed at the camera, after they were startled by an earlier picture being taken. Malagoli was left with this photograph, which shows the birds' yellow eyes in a perfect diagonal line. **METRO**

60 seconds

Maurizio Malagoli

Where did you capture this stunning image?
In Modena there is a sanctuary that tends to wounded animals before they are released back into the wild. At night, owls are attracted by the headlights of cars and are often injured on the roads. I arrived there the day some owls were being released. I positioned myself among the trees, wore green camouflage and waited a couple of hours before the owls were close enough to photograph. Looking into the lens I saw nothing but yellow eyes looking at me with a curious expression. **METRO**

Trivia

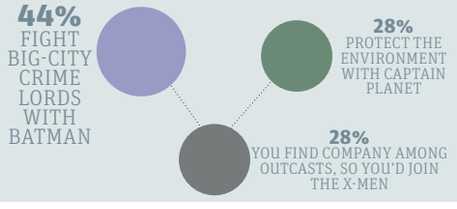
Sacred in Greek culture

- Scientifically known as athene noctua, little owls are associated with Athena, Greek goddess of wisdom, who is often featured with them in ancient art; the Greek one-euro coin shows the same little owl design as the silver tetradrachm coin from 2,500 years ago.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

If you could create a superhero version of yourself, whose team would you join?


44%
FIGHT BIG-CITY CRIME LORDS WITH BATMAN
28%
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT WITH CAPTAIN PLANET
28%
YOU FIND COMPANY AMONG OUTCASTS, SO YOU'D JOIN THE X-MEN

Twitter

@myturn2wine: Hey City of #Winnipeg huge #FAIL on how you've managed traffic at the Stradbrook/QEW construction site. #A+ for causing traffic jam.

@MalorieFisher: red light, yellow light, green light, red light..sync your lights #winnipeg

@MrMyles: Thank-you City of Winnipeg for putting up no parking signs as I slept, then towing @ 9am as I work. #FAIL

@JJ_Power97: "New super expensive development won't be finished when promised. City of Winnipeg needlessly shocked."

@desireerene__: That awkward moment when someone corrects your work in front of you :/

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2 SCENE

Doing it all for the dough

Comedy show. Kids in the Hall alumni Dave Foley going back into stand-up to payoff his child support debts

BACKSTAGE PASS
Jared Story
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Dave Foley of The Kids in the Hall performs stand-up comedy at Rumor's May 10 to 12. HANDOUT

Dave Foley isn't tight-lipped about why he recently started performing stand-up comedy.

Early last year, The Kids in the Hall member revealed that he owes $500,000 in child support to ex-wife Tabitha Southey, who he divorced in 1997.

According to the 49-year-old, the debt accrues steadily at $17,700 a month because the payments are based on his '97 earnings, when Foley had a lead role on NBC sitcom NewsRadio. Nowadays, it's a number he just can't afford.

Suffice it to say, Foley's stand-up style is dark, dirty and direct.

"It's not really a joke-driven act. It's mostly me just talking about things," Foley says over the phone from a tour stop in Calgary.

"The amount of knowledge the audience has about me going in, it's not like I could adopt some sort of stand-up persona. I couldn't suddenly do a character like Bobcat Goldthwait or even talk about stuff like 'this TV commercial is crazy.' I really felt like it had to be largely about me."

Foley says his autobiographical act has been a hit with fans of The Kids in the Hall and has also earned him the respect of some veteran stand-up comics.

"When I decided to do stand-up I really wanted to make sure I did it as well as I could out of respect to my friends who have been doing it their whole lives," Foley says. "I got some advice from my friend Paul F. Tompkins about how to work up a set. Also, Dana Gould was on one of the first shows I did in L.A. and he gave me a very nice compliment. After the show he said to me 'I knew you'd be funny, but I didn't know you'd be good.'"

Also Foley's background in sketch comedy and live performance certainly helped in his transition to stand-up.

"When I'm writing I have this phantom audience in my head," Foley says. "I've bombed and I've succeeded in front of audiences, so I have an instinct of what will work. I think you only get that from being in front audiences for years. It's not the same as getting a thumbs up or a thumbs down on your YouTube page."

Foley performs at Rumor's Restaurant & Comedy Club from May 10 to 12. Go to rumorscomedyclub.com for set times and ticket information.

Quote

"It's not really a joke-driven act. It's mostly me just talking about things."
Dave Foley

Scene in brief

YouTube adds less you, more tube

YouTube is adding to its original programming by launching channels specializing in female dramas and United States Olympic athletes. The Google-owned video site announced the new channels Wednesday ahead of an upfront presentation to advertisers. YouTube has sunk more than $100 million into an ambitious project to lure audiences for longer viewings and attract advertisers with higher quality videos. Filmmakers Jon Avnet and Rodrigo Garcia will launch the channel WIGS, focusing on scripted dramas for women. Also new is a TeamUSA channel from the U.S. Olympic Committee that will feature content ahead of the 2012 games. The Tribeca Film Festival, which recently concluded its 11th annual festival, is also planning a channel. YouTube has launched some 100 channels throughout the year.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

U.K. police arrest two over theft of valuable Chinese artifacts from Cambridge Museum

Norah Jones didn't set out to make a concept album. HANDOUT

Norah Jones, Danger Mouse. Broken Hearts becomes a natural concept

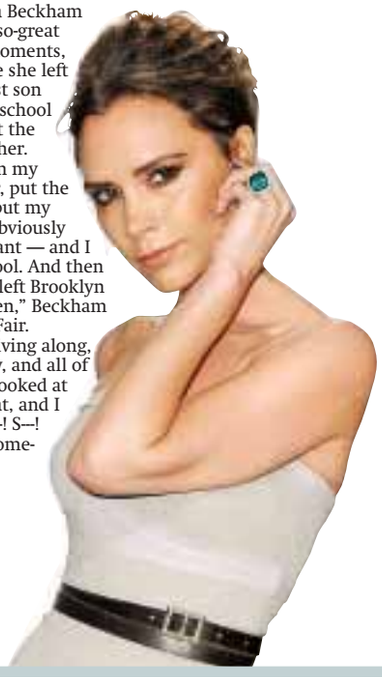
Norah Jones has a piano in her kitchen. You need look no further than this wonderfully off-kilter fact for a metaphor to describe the 33-year-old singer's evolution as she releases arguably the most interesting album of her career, Little Broken Hearts.

"It's nice because I have a music room, but you know it's like the office you never go in or the dining room you never go in or something," Jones said. "So I ended up putting this funky old piano in my kitchen and it's great."

Jones didn't set out to put a piano in her kitchen, of course. Much like her collaboration with producer Danger Mouse on Little Broken Hearts, it just kind of happened naturally.

"I just like how it's turned into sort of a bit of a concept album without any intentions of that's what we were going to do," Jones said. "I'm proud."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Step your parenting game up Posh



Even famous mother of four Victoria Beckham has her not-so-great parenting moments, like the time she left to take eldest son Brooklyn to school — but forgot the kid all together.

"I jump in my Range Rover, put the car seat in, put my iPod on — obviously very important — and I drive to school. And then I realize, I'd left Brooklyn in the kitchen," Beckham tells Vanity Fair.

"I was driving along, talking away, and all of a sudden, I looked at the front seat, and I was like, 'S—! S—! I've forgot something!"

Cowell: As humble as ever

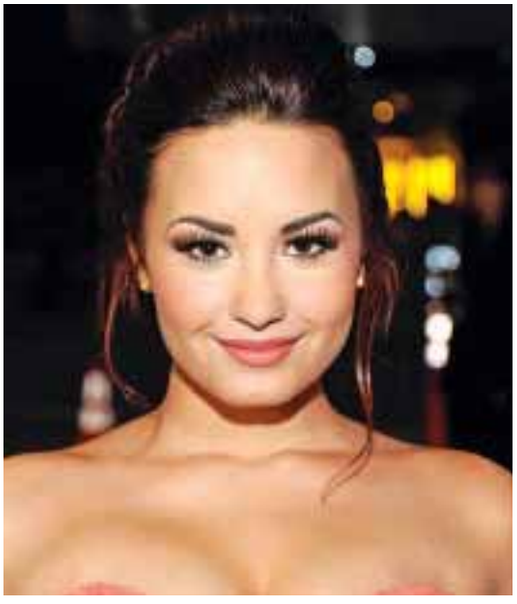
Simon Cowell may not have wanted to keep Cheryl Cole on the U.S. edition of The X Factor, but he's more than happy to take credit for the success she's had in the U.K.

"Even though we went through that pretty horrible period, I could look Cheryl in the eye and say what I did for her in those two years propelled her into a different league," Cowell tells GQ magazine, admitting that while the debacle with the U.S. show may have created some distance between them, he'd still be open to working together again.

"She was hurt. It all ended pretty badly, to be honest," he says. "I always said to her the door is permanently open. It's entirely up to her what she wants to do."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



The Word

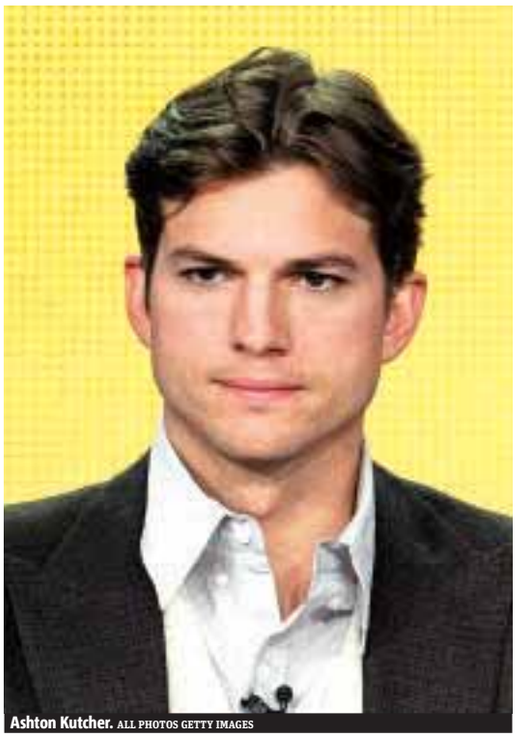
Demi and Miley vie for last X Factor seat

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

With Britney Spears reportedly set to fill one of the empty judges' panel seats on The X Factor, it's a starlet faceoff for the final slot since former judges Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger were kicked off the show after its first season.

And according to conflicting reports, it looks like it's down to two former Disney stars.

Celebuzz.com reports that executive Simon Cowell has been considering Miley Cyrus for the spot, while The Hollywood Reporter insists that Demi Lovato is close to a deal — and even in the "final negotiations" stage of securing the job. I know this sounds, well, crazy, but if these ladies are to decide who has authentic talent on a national television show, why not find someone who actually writes their own music and isn't auto-tuned within an inch of their life?



Ashton Kutcher. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kutcher brings in the big bucks

With a new deal reportedly in place, Ashton Kutcher will be returning for another season of Two and a Half Men, according to Deadline.

For next year's run — the popular sitcom's 10th season — Kutcher will reportedly bring in $700,000 per episode, with co-star John Cryer making slightly less than Kutcher and young Angus T. Jones earning $300,000 per episode. Each actor signed a one-year contract, sparking speculation that the 10th season could be the show's last.

Witherspoon flaunts her bump

While she hasn't yet made an official announcement about her pregnancy, Reese Witherspoon is doing little to hide the obvious.

The Oscar-winning actress was spotted out and about in her L.A. neighborhood this week in a thin, clingy purple dress, according to Radar Online. And this past weekend, Witherspoon and husband Jim Toth turned heads at the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, D.C., with her in a tight top that accentuated her growing bump.

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3 LIFE

Style file

No Mother's Day for model

Please, no flowers for Christy Turlington Burns this Mother's Day. No chocolates and no last-minute, convenience-store cards, either.

A handmade craft from her children would be OK, but mostly what she wants is to have a conversation about the important role that mothers — and grandmothers and great-grandmothers, too — play in families and in larger communities all over the world.

"I never was more appreciative of my own mom and all the other moms out there than when I became one myself," said Turlington Burns, a model, businesswoman and documentary filmmaker, whose children are now six and eight years old. Her No Mother's Day Mother's Day is a way to draw attention to maternal mortality, the cause at the heart of the Every Mother Counts advocacy campaign she founded in 2010. It's also a way to get back to the basics and, hopefully, cut through "all the noise" that now comes with a holiday that the National Retail Federation estimates will come with an $18.6 billion price tag in spending by Americans this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Exotic skins — real and faux — fuel interesting, luxurious style without going over the top.

He's starting with the man in the mirror

Ladies, take a breather. The boys are learning how to shop

Don't be fooled by the old "my girlfriend bought me this" line.

Fashion insiders say men are taking a keen interest in how they dress — and that means developing their own shopping habits. The biggest difference in how they shop for clothes? Probably research — and purpose.

A Saturday at the shopping mall is not a highlight on most men's calendars, says Tyler Thoreson, head of Gilt Groupe's menswear editorial and creative divisions. Even when they're shopping online, they're not surfing many websites or coming back to them day after day, he says, but when they find something they like, they are passionate and potentially more loyal than women.

Call shopping "entertainment" and they're not buying it, but describing it as a "hobby" is something else, he says.

Men can "geek out" when it comes to the construction and even minutia of a garment. "I'm not just talking about a 'fashion guy.' For many men, your wardrobe is part of your program of discernment. They'll learn about it like a car or a wine or a watch," Thoreson says. "Guys can be busting each other's chops in one breath and talking about soft construction on the shoulder of a suit in the next. They love construction, specs. It's about what's under the hood."

Honey, did you pick that out yourself? THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/PARKANDBOND.COM

You now see men dressing for the life they want to lead and image they want to project, agrees Eric Jennings, vice-president and fashion director of menswear for Saks Fifth Avenue. Shopping and, even worse, trying things on are necessary evils to get there.

They go to stores on a mission and like to get it accomplished, he says.

They'll come in knowing exactly what they want and will buy in multiples. But, he adds, the modern customer is buying a broader range of products and sees a value in being knowledgable about them.

Paul Grangaard, CEO of shoe brand Allen Edmonds, says when it comes to fashion, men are hunters and women are gatherers. Different methods, different mentalities, but both can end up with full closets, he says.

"Shopping is not a man's favourite when it's about waiting for women. It's not a leisure activity. Shopping for their own clothing isn't their favourite place, either, but there is a renaissance — it's small but steady — as men are interested in an upgrade," Jennings says. "Coming out of the recession, they know they have to take appearance more seriously. It can be that thing for a new job or a promotion."

And, he adds, if they're dressing well during the week, it's likely to become a habit on weekends.

"Men travel in herds, and when it's OK in your friendship group to care about how you look on the weekends, it spreads pretty quickly," observes Grangaard. "Since the recession of 2008, you're always networking. Men dress better for midweek coffees and lunches and on weekends because you never know who you'll run into where. You always want to look secure, stable and reliable."

It's hard to do that in beat-up jeans and running shoes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's trending?

Tyler Thoreson says he looks around midtown Manhattan and quite literally sees a change.

- You see men — creative types and hipsters, not just bankers, he stresses — voluntarily wearing ties
- On Gilt's upscale Park & Bond website, for example, neckwear sales increased 33 per cent in 2011 over the previous year. "They're wearing ties because they want to, not because they have to."
- Other booming items are pocket squares, Converse sneakers, tie clips and rope bracelets.

Speaking of swagger

"Guys can be busting each other's chops in one breath and talking about soft construction on the shoulder of a suit in the next. They love construction, specs. It's about what's under the hood."

Tyler Thoreson. Gilt Groupe

Paul Smith: 'I'm like a cocktail'

Studio visit. The fashion designer has 14 lines, an in-house team of 180 people and a ton of collectibles

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

"I have so much going on all the time it can be hard to follow, but it's also fantastic," says Smith.

ALL PHOTOS TARA DARBY

"I said something really stupid the other day," Sir Paul Smith says as we sit in his London office. "When asked about it, I told someone that I'm not really a collector. But I have large quantities of the same thing. Then I realized, that is actually a collector," he says laughing, making the understatement of the year.

He's standing over an intimidating pile of autographed cycling jerseys given to him by famous racing champions (Smith is a long-time fan of the sport). That pile sits next to leaning towers of art and fashion books, numbering in the hundreds, which are in turn surrounded by walls of bookshelves filled with everything from biographies and novels to toys, cameras, soccer balls and works of photography. Limited edition bicycles and rare works of art round it all out.

"I think you can tell from this office that my head is full of curiosity," he says. "I'm happy to have something that costs 50 pence or something from a famous person. In the same way, all of my collections are different and fun. Paul Smith is like a cocktail of many ingredients that are very intriguing to people," he says, once again playing things down a bit.

His brand is more like a jumbo smoothie — his building houses a total of 180 employees who design 26 collections a year across his 14 lines. Those numbers would make the average person's eyes glaze over.

During our time together, Smith greets every person he comes across by name, with a personal anecdote to boot. But Smith seems to operate best as a multitasker. "It's great for business because there's something for everybody."

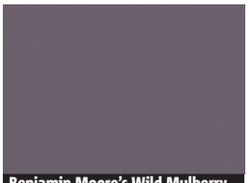
Fixes for your flat-screen TV

Decorative interest.
If you're not mounting your TV on the wall, here's what to do with that empty space

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Q: We love our apartment's Art Deco decor but the wall space around the television looks too bland. I don't want to hang the television, so what can I do to add some decorative interest?
Beatrice Sloane

A: This is a common problem when people choose to sit their flat-screen TV on a credenza rather than mounting it on the wall — they are left with a lot of space above the television and don't know how to treat it.



Benjamin Moore's Wild Mulberry. BENJAMINMOORE.CA

As this is the focal wall in your living area, I suggest treating the walls with something that will add drama and style to the overall room without drawing too much attention to the space above the TV.

Paint the corner pillar a deep colour to allow it to be an architectural element in the room. I suggest Benjamin Moore's Wild Mulberry, a darker, more neutral version of the accent colour that you have in your pillows and rug.

You might want to carry this colour onto another focal wall area like the end of a hallway or in the bedroom. This will help create a constant colour flow throughout the apartment.

Use wallpaper behind the television to add much-needed pattern and texture to the room. I love the Art Deco feel of Graham & Brown's Illusion wallpaper ($60/roll), which highlights the square edges you have in your furniture. The good thing about wallpaper these days is that it's easily removed (simply peel) when you move out or change your colour scheme.

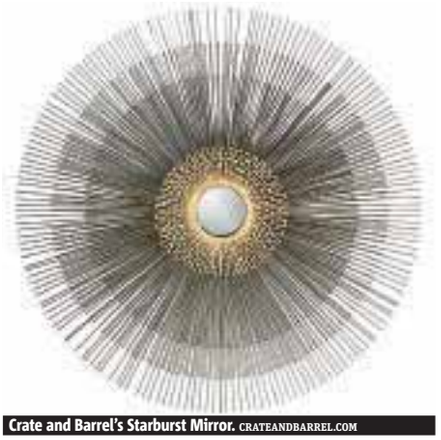
Hang something sculptural to help fill the empty space above the television, but not an attention-grabber like a large wall clock or painting.

The Starburst mirror from Crate and Barrel ($247) has great Art Deco elements that will add a sculptural quality to the space. Hang it in the centre of the empty wall space, not directly above the television.

GOT A DESIGN DILEMMA? EMAIL YOUR QUESTION AND A PHOTO TO HOME@METRONEWS.CA. FOR DAILY DESIGN ADVICE, FOLLOW @KARLLOHNES ON TWITTER.

This living room needs decorative interest on the empty wall behind the television. HANDOUT

Graham & Brown's Illusion wallpaper. GRAHAMBROWN.CA



Crate and Barrel's Starburst Mirror. CRATEANDBARREL.COM

Give your home a spring refresh

Whether you're thinking of selling your home or craving some updates, there's no better time to breathe some new life into it than in the spring. Sweat Equity's Amy Matthews helps homeowners tackle projects themselves and gives tips and techniques on saving money along the way.

We've assembled some of Amy's sound advice for increasing property value while transforming spaces into something you'll be proud to call home.

Sometimes it's the outside that counts

With spring in the air, now is a great time to give the exterior of your house some love and care.

Replacing exterior siding and rejuvenating landscaping is a sure way to increase property value while also making it feel like you're returning to a brand new space.

Using upscale siding has a high return on investment as it will provide proper protection from the elements, which can eliminate the need for maintenance projects down the line.

Try to keep lawn improvements on par with other homes in your neighbourhood, while ensuring that basics such as a full green lawn and groomed shrubbery are checked off your list.

Colourful spring flowers are cheerful to come home to and can highlight a home's best features, such as complementing the colour of a new front door or accenting a walkway or deck.

Interior care

After admiring your home's refreshed exterior, why not continue the new look inside?

Painting is an easy way to make any room feel brand new. Stay away from uniform neutrals and try different colours in the various rooms of your house — maybe even consider an accent wall in your living room or bedroom.

If you're thinking of selling, remember that choosing the right colour can really pay off since it makes a first impression when walking into a space.

Too extreme a colour can turn potential buyers away. It's also best to stay away from wallpaper if you're thinking of selling because it is unlikely that potential buyers will share your taste in patterns and removal can be costly.

Bathroom updates

As long as it's running efficiently, keep bathroom plumbing as is and focus on surface upgrades such as installing modern fixtures on cabinets, showers and sinks — this is a sure way to build some real sweat equity.

Installing a new tile floor will also do wonders to refresh the space. Cost permitting, consider continuing tile up the walls to the ceiling — it not only looks great but is a lot easier to keep clean than paint.

Before installing flooring, consider purchasing an updated vanity and toilet to complete the new look. Focused lighting can create a spa-like sensation, regardless of how small the space.

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Leave the meat option in the freezer and go veggie instead

Did you know that a head of cauliflower can be sliced into two thick "steaks" that hold up well on the grill? They can be seasoned as you see fit, and topped with whatever you like. In this recipe, the seasonings are simple, then topped with lightly poached eggs and truffle oil, creating a delicious sauce.

1. Heat a grill to medium. Bring a large saucepan of water to a low simmer.

2. Use a paring knife to trim away the leaves and any stem at the base of the cauliflower, but do not cut out the core. Stand the head of cauliflower upright on its base. Use a large bread or other serrated knife to trim away 1/2 inch on either side of the head. Reserve these pieces for another use.

3. Leaving the head standing upright, use the knife to slice the cauliflower in half down the centre to create 2 even halves. Sprinkle both sides of each half with olive oil, then with salt, pepper, a bit of the garlic powder and a little lemon juice.

4. Carefully set the "steaks" on the grill, cover and cook for 8 minutes.

5. Use spatula to carefully flip cauliflower and grill for 8 minutes, or until both sides are lightly browned and tender. Transfer to serving plates, then cover with foil to keep warm.

6. Once the cauliflower is done, add the vinegar to the simmering water.

7. Crack 1 egg into a small glass, then gently and slowly pour it into the simmering water by bringing the lip of the glass right down to the surface of the water so the egg slides in. Cook for 4 minutes, then use a slotted spoon to lift out the egg (letting excess water drip away), setting it one of the cauliflower steaks. Repeat with the remaining egg.

8. Season the eggs with salt and pepper, then drizzle with truffle oil. Serve immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grilled Cauliflower Steaks with Poached Eggs and Truffle Oil

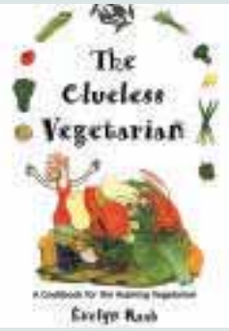
This recipe serves two. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 large head cauliflower
- Olive oil
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1 tablespoon white or cider vinegar
- 2 eggs
- Truffle oil (or truffle-flavoured olive oil)

Cookbook of the Week

The Clueless Vegetarian



The Clueless Vegetarian by Evelyn Raab is designed for those who love good food, cooked from scratch, but also have to have a life

If you've just switched to a vegetarian diet, the book's straightforward nutritional info will help you in making good food choices. If you've been practicing for a while, you'll discover new recipes and methods.

Among the eats included are: Creamy Carrot Soup, Roasted Tomato Fettucine, Potato Latkas, Spanakopita and more.

METRO

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Sports in pictures

1 Soccer. Muamba returns to Bolton

Fabrice Muamba made an emotional return to Bolton Wednesday, waving to supporters from the field less than seven weeks after his on-field cardiac arrest. The midfielder was introduced to a standing ovation ahead of Bolton's match against Tottenham. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 NHL. Habs find their man

The Montreal Canadiens believe they have found the man who can lead them back up the standings, saying new GM Marc Bergevin is the total package.

The club introduced the Chicago assistant GM and former NHL defenceman as its new general manager Wednesday, just over a month after firing Pierre Gauthier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 NBA. Award for Chandler

Tyson Chandler, the catalyst for the New York Knicks' defensive improvement, was voted the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Devils put Pitchfork in Flyers' playoff plans

NHL. Philadelphia not so dominant vs. hard-working New Jersey

David Clarkson is congratulated by Zach Parise after crashing the net to score Tuesday night's game-winning goal.
TOM MIHALEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

After Philadelphia rolled over Pittsburgh in Round 1 of the playoffs, there was a perception the Flyers would be the team to beat in the Eastern Conference.

Deep. Driven. Determined. You name it.

Getting by New Jersey in the second round seemingly was a given, especially after the No. 6 seed Devils needed seven games to knock off Florida.

Well, it's time to revise that perception. Because, with Game 3 on tap Thursday in New Jersey, this series is tied, 1-1.

The Devils not only showed they could play with the Flyers in splitting the first two games in Philadelphia; they could easily be leading 2-0 in the series. They lost Game 1 4-3 in overtime and dominated in a 4-1, Game 2 win Tuesday without leading scorer Ilya Kovalchuk.

"I think there is a pressure with being a favourite in a series," Devils coach Peter DeBoer said Wednesday. "We felt that in the Florida series, and I don't think there is any doubt that it is on Philadelphia. That is something that isn't easy to deal with, when you are supposed to win and, not only win, but win convincingly."

The Devils clearly outworked the Flyers in Game 2. They outshot Philadelphia 35-20 and only Ilya Bryzgalov's stellar goaltending allowed the home team to hold a 1-0 lead after two periods.

But New Jersey blew the game open with four consecutive goals in the third. In doing so, the Devils took home-ice advantage — and confidence —back to New Jersey.

A veteran of three Stanley Cup championship teams, Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur said not to make too much of the changing perceptions. That's playoff hockey, after all. And it's best to ignore it.

"You can't get overwhelmed by one win," the 39-year-old Brodeur said after the Devils held a team meeting. "People always look at that. That's (why) the mood swings are important. You have to be levelled off about them. You feel so good about yourself that sometimes you slack off a bit. We can't get caught up. We played well, but we expect the Flyers to come a lot harder tomorrow and do what they do."

Philadelphia has to pick up its skating and work on its power play, which failed to produce in five attempts in Game 2 and is 1-for-11 in the series. Flyers centre Danny Briere said the Devils also were the more inspired team playing without Kovalchuk. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It is all about the will and desperation. We have to get that back."

Danny Briere, Flyers forward

NFL. Former linebacker Seau found dead at home

Former NFL star Junior Seau was found shot to death at his home Wednesday morning in what police said appeared to be a suicide. He was 43.

Police Chief Frank McCoy said Seau's girlfriend reported finding him unconscious with a gunshot wound to the chest and lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful.

A gun was found near him, McCoy said. Police said no suicide note was found and they didn't immediately know who the gun was registered to.

Seau's mother appeared before reporters, weeping uncontrollably.

"I don't understand ... I'm shocked," Luisa Seau cried out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Junior Seau
CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

MLB. 'I could have' misunderstood Clemens, Pettitte tells defence

With two short answers, Andy Pettitte called into question the validity of his testimony against Roger Clemens, part of a discouraging day for prosecutors in the retrial of the seven-time Cy Young Award winner.

After stumbling its way to a mistrial of Clemens last year, the government is struggling again in the retrial — to the point that the crux of Pettitte's testimony might be tossed out. First, the exasperated judge criticized the questioning of Pettitte on Wednesday, then he ruled against prosecutors in another matter. Finally he cried out: "You're taking positions that are totally absurd to me."

During cross-examination, Clemens' lawyers asked if Pettitte might have misunderstood when Clemens supposedly acknowledged using human growth hormone to Pettitte in a conversation during the 1999-2000 off-season?

"I could have," Pettitte answered. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

Quoted

"I felt like I played well and a lot of things are coming together and I feel like I'm progressing in a very good manner."

Canadian tennis player Milos Raonic who has jumped up two places in this week's ATP world rankings to a career-best No. 23 after a semifinal showing on the red clay at the Barcelona Open. The hard-serving 21-year-old from Thornhill upset world No. 4 Andy Murray 6-4, 7-6 (3) in the quarter-finals before falling 7-6 (2), 7-6 (5) to No. 6 David Ferrer in the semis on Saturday. The six-foot-five Raonic, who has now beaten six top-10 players in his career, plans on playing only big tournaments this summer, including the Grand Slams and the Summer Olympics.

NHL playoffs

Capitals look to take advantage in D.C.

The Washington Capitals looked to turn momentum from a series-tying win in New York on Monday into a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven with the Rangers on Wednesday night. For game results, go to metronews.ca/sports.

On the web

Last year, the Dallas Mavericks topped the Oklahoma City Thunder en route to their first-ever NBA championship. In the playoff rematch a year later, the young Thunder appear to have learned from that defeat and are well on their way to sending the Mavs to an early exit. Scan the code for the story.

CFL Players' Association

Mike Morreale during his time with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Ex-CFLer takes on 'opportunity of a lifetime'

The CFL Players' Association has a new president.

Mike Morreale was elected to the post Wednesday at the union's annual general meeting in Barbados. He succeeds Stu Laird, who had served as president since 2001.

Morreale spent 12 seasons as a CFL slotback with Toronto and Hamilton and during that time served as a player rep. He was the league's top Canadian in 1998 with the Ticats and the following year was the outstanding Canadian in the Grey Cup game, again with Hamilton.

Morreale takes over as union president after serving as its director of marketing.

"I am very proud to have been given the honour and privilege of being elected president of the CFLPA," Morreale said in a statement. "This is the opportunity of a lifetime and I'm looking forward to the new and exciting challenges that come with it."

Laird has been asked to remain on the CFLPA's executive committee as a past president, something the union says he is considering.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heenan embracing first taste of CFL spotlight

CFL. Huskies offensive lineman would have 'no problem' starting his CFL career in Saskatchewan

Ben Heenan stretches while with the Saskatchewan Huskies in May 2010. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The months of uncertainty and anxiousness are almost over for Ben Heenan.

The spotlight has been fixed on the Saskatchewan Huskies offensive lineman since he opened the 2012 season as the CFL draft's top-ranked prospect. Although he has dipped to No. 2 in the rankings, the six-foot-four, 310-pound Heenan remains the favourite to go first overall in Thursday's draft.

"It has been very, very busy for me and my family and the media has kept me on my toes," Heenan said Wednesday. "For the most part I'm just trying to enjoy it and soak it all in.

"I just want to go to a place that wants me and whatever team drafts me will want me. It will be interesting to see how things unfold."

The Saskatchewan Roughriders hold the No. 1 pick and many of their fans have made it clear they want the club to select Heenan, a native of Grand Coulee, Sask. Trouble is, the offensive line isn't a top priority for the Riders after signing free agents Dom Picard and Brendon Labatte and re-signing veteran Chris Best this off-season.

That allowed Roughriders' GM Brendan Taman to entertain offers for the No. 1 pick. But as of Wednesday no club had met his price of a 2012 first-round pick, a future selection and/or a Canadian-born player. So unless Taman receives a last-minute offer, he'll be calling Heenan first overall, which would suit Heenan just fine.

"I'd have no problem staying here to play football," he said.

Heenan certainly isn't the only top draft prospect available but is one of the few who'd be able to report to Saskatchewan immediately. That's important considering the Riders only currently have 24 Canadians on their roster.

Four of the top six players on the final scouting bureau rankings list have either been drafted by NFL teams or offered tryouts, with Heenan and Laval linebacker Frederic Plesius (No. 5) being the exceptions.

"I don't think we can wait for a guy we may see in a year," Taman said. "I think you need a guy who's going to be in camp and around your team for the next two, three years."

And with Taman having already said he wouldn't take Plesius first overall, all signs point to Heenan being his man.

Edmonton Eskimos GM Eric Tillman, who tried dealing with Taman for the top pick, has two first-round selections (second and sixth, overall) and much pre-draft talk had him taking Laurier receiver Shamawd Chambers at No. 2. But with Chambers heading to the Philadelphia Eagles' mini-camp next week, there's talk Tillman will take the six-foot-one, 245-pound Plesius, who began his college career at Baylor before transferring to Laval, second overall.

The other top prospects heading to NFL camps include top-ranked Boise State defensive lineman Tyrone Crawford (Dallas Cowboys draftee), No. 4 Austin Plasztor, an offensive lineman from Virginia (Minnesota Vikings free agent) and No. 6 Christo Bilukidi, a defensive lineman from Georgia State (Oakland Raiders draft pick).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It has been very, very encouraging to hear about fans lobbying for me to an extent ... That's obviously incredible and not a lot of places get that. To have the fans behind me is a great feeling."

Ben Heenan on Roughriders desire to see him go No. 1

Draft day

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats have the No. 3 selection, followed by the B.C. Lions, Calgary Stampeders and Edmonton again before the defending Grey Cup-champion Lions round out the first round.

- The Winnipeg Blue Bombers were scheduled to pick seventh overall but forfeited the selection after taking Central Michigan receiver Kito Poblah in the 2011 supplemental draft.

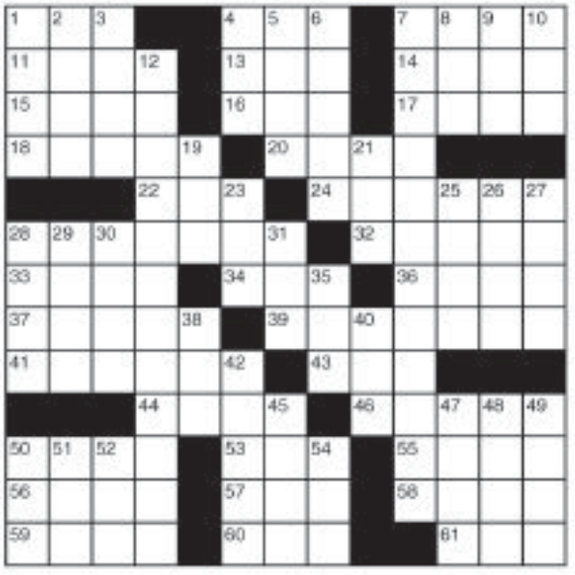
Crossword

Across

1 Kettle and Bell
4 Tummy muscles
7 Connect
11 "Yeah, right"
13 Famed vaudeville family name
14 "Do — others ..."
15 Burn somewhat
16 Can material
17 Birds' home
18 Necklace carving
20 Earring site
22 Chips accessory
24 Sweet tasting
28 Red
32 A portrayer of 007
33 California town
34 Manhandle
36 Gear teeth
37 Play out
39 Vegas winnings
41 Skin-related
43 Homer's interjection
44 Culture medium
46 Refuge
50 State with conviction
53 Gratuity
55 Start over
56 Platter
57 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
58 Adolescent
59 "You do the —"
60 Do some tailoring
61 Tatter

Down

1 Not fem.
2 On the briny
3 Thailand, once
4 Sternward
5 Seethe
6 Religious council
7 "Lassie" actress
8 Indivisible
9 With 10-Down, "— Unusual"
10 See 9-Down
12 "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" Oscar winner
19 Tin Man's need
21 Vagrant
23 Energy
25 Hen pen
26 Therefore
27 Examination
28 Coaster
29 Traffic pylon
30 Hebrew month
31 — Mahal
35 Bankroll
38 Playground game
40 Dove's comment
42 Gate fastener
45 Mature
47 Prognosticator
48 Notion
49 Composer's creation
50 Navy bigwig (Abbr.)
51 By way of
52 Superlative ending
54 Singer Tillis



Sudoku

1		4		2	5			9
	6		4					2
	2		6				4	
2							9	
		9	5		2	4		
	3							1
	7				9		2	
5					1		7	
8			7	3		6		

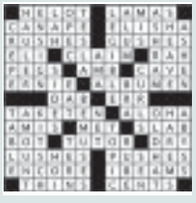
How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	1	4	8	6	2	3	7
7	2	8	5	1	3	6	4	9
3	6	4	7	9	2	5	8	1
9	1	3	2	5	7	8	6	4
6	4	7	1	3	8	9	2	5
8	5	2	9	6	4	1	7	3
2	3	9	8	4	5	7	1	6
1	7	6	3	2	9	4	5	8
4	8	5	6	7	1	3	9	2

Yesterday's Crossword



Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

NZ MEBUOEYL YUHEXKHUY URTWEMNSUM OL LEA, N URTUIH HGKH BNFGH GKSU K OWKMHNXF UZZUIH EX LEA.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON IS WAY TOO FOND OF FRIGATES AND DESTROYERS, SOME MIGHT SAY IT'S WARSHIP WORSHIP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals Y

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: 5° MIN: 3°	MAX: 11° MIN: 4°	MAX: 17° MIN: 4°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6 AM**

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. You would be wise to keep your money in your pocket today. Whatever gains you have made in recent weeks, you could lose.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Your persuasive powers are such that anyone will believe what you tell them. Should you take advantage of that fact financially? Of course.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Plans you made a long time ago are beginning to bear fruit, so keep your nerve and keep things moving.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Go out of your way to talk with people you don't usually get along with. It pays to be friendly.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Try to be a more ambitious and more assertive. Let important people know you're ready to move up.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Anyone who tries to scare you into doing something you don't want to do will fail abysmally.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You may be tempted to bet against the odds today but before you gamble with your future, ask yourself whether you can afford to lose.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Don't keep your feelings to yourself today. Show emotions. People will respond to you better if they can see that you are vulnerable.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. According to the planets, you need to streamline your daily routine so you have more time to yourself.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Don't waste time lamenting your run of bad fortune because it is already beginning to end.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. When pushed to extremes, you can mix it with the best of them and today you must not allow yourself to be defamed by someone.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You may be a nice guy but every now and then you go right the other way and reveal your ruthless streak.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Got mouse?"
George

ROB GRIFFITH/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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